

Professional Development Diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture

If you are planning to, or are already working in therapeutic horticulture, health, education or social care, or if you have recently started a new job or are newly qualified in these areas, and want to be more professional about what you do, this diploma is suitable for you. It is designed to enable students to develop as innovative and effective practitioners of social and therapeutic horticulture (STH).

The Professional Development Diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture has been designed and delivered by Pershore College and Coventry University in partnership with Thrive.

The course offers flexible learning opportunities, comprising study modules to be completed at home or in the workplace and independent study and workshop blocks at Coventry University, Pershore College, and Thrive's National Office in Reading.

The course consists of five modules:

1. Integrating Theory and Practice in STH
2. Independent Studies: Service Development
3. Horticulture: Skills for Practice
4. Horticultural Planning and Design
5. Social and Therapeutic Horticulture: Managing a Unit

You will

- have the opportunity to be involved in shared learning with other health professionals and horticulturalists during the workshop blocks
- engage in a variety of methods of teaching and learning
- have the opportunity to access elements of the course for those students who wish to add to their professional portfolio, by accessing components relevant to their needs
- have the opportunity to be credited for certain modules dependent on previous experience and qualifications

Entry Requirements

1. Offer evidence of a certificate of higher education or above: preferably in health / social care, education, horticulture or a related area.
2. Be currently practising social and therapeutic horticulture and have a minimum of one year's experience in this area; this may be in the capacity of employee and/or volunteer.



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Mode of study

This part-time distance learning course is offered over one year, commencing in September and finishing the following July. It is delivered on a flexible learning basis, comprising a combination of workshop blocks and study packs.

The workshop blocks are offered at Coventry University, Pershore College and the Thrive National Office, near Reading, depending on the module being studied. The blocks vary in length from one day to five days.

The study packs have been designed to be completed at home or in the work place. They include reading materials and work-based activities to facilitate the students' application of their learning.

A person tutorial system has been established and students are actively encouraged to network with each other. This facilitates staff and peer support through the course.

Aims of the course

The course has been designed to enable students to:

- develop as innovative and effective practitioners in the field of social and therapeutic horticulture
- transfer their core skills proficiently and safely within the practice setting, so potentially serving a wider client group
- understand the context of the service and so operate efficiently as a therapist and a social and therapeutic horticulture unit manager
- be responsible for their own learning and recognise the contribution of ongoing education to their own personal and continuing professional development (CPD)
- participate in professional networks to promote the understanding of horticulture as a therapeutic medium.

The course team assists students in extending their understanding of the sciences which underpin social and therapeutic horticulture and in refining their own skills in using horticultural activity as therapy. Successful students will also be able to appreciate the complex social and political context of service delivery, thus becoming more confident and competent therapists/unit managers. It is also anticipated that students, through their sharing of experiences and learning, will contribute to the growing body of knowledge which provides a foundation for the practice of social and therapeutic horticulture.

Course structure and curriculum

The course comprises of five modules, made up of a combination of half and single modules. They are studied at Level 2 and Level 3. The chart below shows each module by size, level and location of workshop blocks.

<i>Name of Module</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Location of workshop block</i>
Integrating theory and practice in STH (2540T)	Single	2	Coventry University
Independent studies: Developing STH services (2550T)	Single	2	Coventry University
Horticulture: Skills for practice (2507T)	Half	2	Pershore College
Horticultural planning and design (2560T)	Half	2	Pershore College
Social and therapeutic horticulture: Managing a unit(3680T)	Single	3	Thrive National Office, near Reading

Accreditation of prior learning (APL)

Candidates may apply for accreditation of prior learning. For example, if the candidate holds a diploma/degree in horticulture, he/she may be exempt from studying the Horticulture module.

The Diploma in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture is valued as 80 CATS (Credit Accumulated Transfer Scheme) points at Undergraduate Level 3.

Graduation

On successful completion of the Diploma, you will have the opportunity to attend the University Graduation Ceremony (Faculty of Health and Life Sciences - STH).

Class of 2012



“Have found this course frustrating but challenging,
but also inspiring and delightful.”

For further information and admissions contact:

Health & Social Care Unit
Faculty of Health & Social Sciences
Coventry University

Tel: 024 7679 5958

Email: hscu.hls@coventry.ac.uk

Thrive, The Geoffrey Udall Centre, Beech Hill, Reading RG7 2AT
T: 0118 988 5688 F: 0118 988 5677 E: info@thrive.org.uk W: www.thrive.org.uk

Thrive is registered as the Society for Horticultural Therapy. Charity number 277570. Company number 1415700.